



Report 2004

A report to the
community



**Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities**

Cheryl Phipps

Superintendent

Change and more change defined 2004 as a pivotal year in services to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD) in Hamilton County.

One very welcome change in the law was the ratification of Senate Bill 178 (formerly Senate Bill 4), which gives our staff access to the Probate Court in critical situations requiring immediate removal of an individual from his or her living situation.

I was proud to start off the new year accepting a certificate from Ohio Department of MR/DD officially naming us the first county board in Ohio to receive a five-year best practices accreditation from the department.

Our board is one of only four county boards in the state to receive the best practices designation, which says that we go above and beyond the call of duty in many areas to provide quality services for individuals with MR/DD in this county.

One of our most important goals for 2004 as an agency was to pass our tax levy in November, which we did with an amazing 61.3% of the popular vote. Hamilton County taxpayers came through for their fellow citizens with MR/DD when votes were cast, as they have always done.

However, the months-long trek to the fall campaign was fraught with challenges, as we went through a major performance audit by Maximus, weeks of scrutiny by the County Commissioner-appointed volunteer citizens group called the Tax Levy Review Committee, and additional scrutiny from the Commissioners.

The results of those challenges were that we were not allowed to ask the voters to approve what we needed. The amount on the ballot, for the 5 year levy period, was \$42.5 million less than what our Board originally requested.

As a result of that decrease and several stipulations that were included with the levy package, we began making painful budget cuts and changes to our services. We also began working with school districts to prepare them for having to contribute financially to the costs of educating and transporting children from their districts to our schools.

Even amidst the changes and challenges, we climbed to new heights of supporting people with disabilities and their families.

Several hundred additional Individual Budgets were implemented, giving individuals more choice in services than ever before, and thus more effective and cost-efficient services. We continued our Self Determination efforts in other ways, most notably in giving more authority and responsibility to two of our five regions.

Our Itinerant Support, Transition, Service Facilitation, and Contract Management teams, along with many community partners, assisted individuals in new and different ways.

All of us in the MR/DD family in Hamilton County were reminded by events of 2004 that we can, do, and will continue to work together to help people with disabilities and their families achieve what is important to them. Significant changes and challenges are going to be part of our landscape for many years to come. We will meet those challenges and our services to individuals with disabilities and their families will continue to be the best!



Cheryl



2004

Change & Challenge



Children and adults with disabilities continued to achieve what was important to them in 2004, with support from teams of family, friends, neighbors and staff from the system of services in Hamilton County.

Election Day was a high point, as residents of Hamilton County once again showed support for people with disabilities by voting 61.3% for passage of the five-year MR/DD levy.

Campaign volunteers that included individuals, families, staff, contracted partners and other friends are to thank for the success of the levy. Volunteers turned out by the hundreds all throughout the year to participate in the various activities of the campaign.

The political road to levy success, however, was far from smooth, and the road into the future is fraught with twists and turns and detours even with its passage. The significant cuts made to our initial levy request mean that we are facing and will continue to face significant service and funding limits on a local level that will reverberate throughout this levy cycle and beyond.

Adding these painful local funding realities to the realities of funding limitations and cuts from state and federal sources produces an environment in which rapid change is occurring throughout all levels of Board services to meet growing demand in



more creative ways with less funds.

Hamilton County Board of MR/DD children's programs once again were at the forefront in providing meaningful education to children with a broad spectrum of needs. Children's programs took some of the hardest funding and resource hits, but admirably overcame barriers to continue meeting the needs of children in creative and resourceful and relevant ways.

The Itinerant Support team, a group of professional staff of the board including teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech therapists, broadened assistance to children with disabilities who are educated in the public schools. Members of the transition team helped families and children approaching graduation age determine plans for the future.



For the first time, a much-requested summer program was implemented in Board-operated schools to help children with disabilities maintain progress from the school year over summer vacation. The success of this program helped earn it a grant for funding in summer 2005, taking the emphasis off local money for this need.

A wide range of employment opportunities at many community locations were provided for adults with disabilities, largely through contracts with vocational assistance agencies like Work Resource Center, Goodwill Industries, Great Oaks Joint Vocational School, and Jewish Vocational Service.



General Assembly, Inc., the non-profit agency that provides work for the four Board-operated Adult Centers, streamlined work environments to maximize production potential of each individual who works at a center.

Service Facilitation teams from five regions of Hamilton County continued to fine-tune and implement the Individual Budget process, as they supported hundreds of individuals in choosing and getting connected to the supports that fit each individual's particular needs.

Ground-breaking self advocacy efforts at state and local levels continued. Members of Leaders in Action, an independent group of self advocates affiliated with the Board, registered people to vote and educated other self advocates about voting, worked on the levy campaign, helped make decisions about services and operations by being part of every working committee, and trained staff and others about self advocacy.



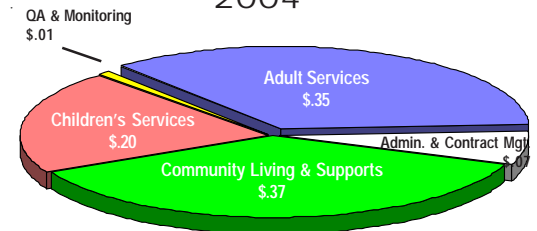
Valiant efforts among individuals, families, and staff of the Board and contracted partners amidst difficult changes and challenges defined 2004, and will be the defining force behind service delivery at the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.



Individuals Served

Children's Services	1,002
Early Intervention	555
Preschool (3-5)	14
School Age (6-21)	274
Breyer School	
Fairfax School	
Rost School	
Itinerant Support Team	59
Transition Project	109
Adult Services	1,974
Adult Centers	727
Beckman Center	
Franks Center	
Jackson Center	
Kidd Center	
Adult Services Contracts	1086
Mobile Work Crew	
Miscellaneous	31
Community Resources	*3,688
Service Facilitation	
*many individuals receive more than one service	

Expenditures 2004



Children's Services	\$17,395,057	Not reflected in our budget is \$44 million for Medicaid Waiver Services. These payments are made to providers by the Ohio Department of MR/DD, but are made possible by local match dollars.
Adult Services	\$30,104,084	
Community Living & Supports	\$31,396,925	
Administration & Contract Management	\$6,334,111.61	
Quality Assurance & Monitoring	\$762,717	

Revenues



MR Services Levy	\$53,821,034	Federal	\$12,930,523
State	\$7,138,048	miscellaneous	\$559,271

Hamilton County Board of MR/DD

Support Center

4370 Malsbary Road, Suite 200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

(513) 794-3300

Fax/(513) 794-3319

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Intake & Service Coordination (513) 794-3308
4370 Malsbary Road, Suite 200 (45242) Fax/(513) 794-3323

Single Service Facilitation
Northeast Resource Room (513) 587-7244
Southwest Resource Room (513) 619-2998
Central Resource Room (513) 541-1264 ext. 188
Southeast Resource Room (513) 271-2313 ext. 27
Northwest Resource Room (513) 742-6646 ext. 128

ADULT SERVICES

The General Assembly, Inc. (513) 541-2904
4210 Dane Street (45223) Fax/(513) 541-2828

Mobile Work Crews (513) 542-1420
3274 Beekman Street (45223)

Supported Employment Unit (513) 794-3308
4370 Malsbary Road, Suite 200 (45242)

Adult Centers

Elmer P. Beckman Center (513) 742-1576
2600 Civic Center Drive (45231) Fax/(513) 742-6634

Robert W. Franks Center (513) 598-2965
5884 Bridgetown Road (45248) Fax/(513) 598-2971

E. Roger Jackson Center (513) 272-4326
5093 Kingsley Drive (45227) Fax/(513) 272-4330

Thomas H. Kidd Center (513) 563-2500
9910 Reading Road (45241) Fax/(513) 577-7271

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools

Frederick A. Breyer School (513) 742-6638
2675 Civic Center Drive (45231) Fax/(513) 742-6641

Bobbie B. Fairfax School (513) 271-2313
4999 Kingsley Drive (45227) Fax/(513) 272-4324

Margaret B. Rost School (513) 574-2372
5858 Bridgetown Road (45248) Fax/(513) 598-2963

Community Locations

Amity Elementary School (513) 891-5995
4320 East Galbraith Road (45236)

Carll Street Center (513) 921-2481
1769 Carll Street (45225)

Duvall Center (513) 521-6116
1411 Compton Road (45231)

Kemper Heights Community Center (513) 851-9270
924 Waycross Road (45240)

Miamitown Elementary School (513) 353-1416
State & Mill Streets (45041)

Reading Hilltop Elementary (513) 733-4322
Sanborn & Bolser Drive (45215)

St. Joseph Education Center (513) 554-0242
10722 Wyscarver Road (45241)

24 Hour Emergency Number - (513) 794-3308

If you need this Annual Report in large print, audio or braille formats, contact Lynne Calloway at 587-7272



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www.hamilton-co.org/mrdd

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